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Winter Wheat--Below Last Year But Above Average

According to the Crop Reporting Board, production of winter wheat is forecast at 891 million bushels, 3 percent below the April estimate and 17 percent less than last year but 2 percent above average.

In the past 10 years, the average change in the United States production estimate from May 1 to harvest has been 79 million bushels, ranging from a maximum of 164 million bushels to a minimum of 9 million.

Yield per harvested acre is indicated to be 25.5 bushels, nearly a bushel below last year, but still the fourth highest of record and 3.5 bushels above average. Acreage to be harvested is indicated at 34.9 million acres, 14 percent less than was harvested last year. It is presently anticipated that 90 percent of the acreage seeded will be harvested.

Pasture Conditions Like Year Earlier

Condition of pastures in the United States on May 1 was reported at 83 percent of normal. This is the same percentage as a year earlier and 2 points above the 1951-60 average for May 1.

Hay Condition Average

The condition of hay on May 1 was reported at 86 percent of normal, 1 point lower than a year earlier but the same as average.

Hay Stocks Down

Hay stocks on the Nation's farms, although fed at a high rate through a long severe winter, were still in average supply. May 1 farm stocks estimated at 18 million tons were down 23 percent from a year earlier, but were equal to the May 1, 1951-60 average.

Orange Crop Estimate 11 Percent Over 1960-61

The 1961-62 orange crop is estimated at nearly 130 million boxes, 11 percent above last year and 4 percent above average. The estimate of production is up from the April 1 estimate as the result of increased prospects in Florida. Part of Florida's increase can be attributed to the fact that the droppage of Valencias has been much below average. With approximately two-thirds of the U.S. orange crop harvested, an estimated 41.6 million boxes remained for harvest after May 1 compared with 37.7 million boxes a year earlier.

Peach Production Drop Estimated

Production in the 9 Southern peach States is forecast at 14,320,000 bushels, down about one-fourth from the large crop of 1961, although 22 percent above average. None of these States expects as many peaches as last year, and in only North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama are prospects above average.

Grapefruit Estimate Below Last Year

Production of grapefruit is estimated at 42.2 million boxes, 3 percent below last year and 5 percent below average. By May 1 a little more than 80 percent of the crop had been picked, leaving 7.8 million boxes still to be picked, compared with the 9.6 million which remained for harvest a year earlier.

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Mar. 1962	April 1962	April 1962
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.).....ct.	29.35	31.75	39.35
Wheat (bu.).....dol.	1.90	1.92	2.44
Rice (100 lb.).....dol.	5.70	5.60	6.24
Corn (bu.).....dol.	.968	.988	1.61
Peanuts (lb.).....ct.	11.4	11.2	13.5
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Milkfat in cream (lb.).....ct.	60.2	58.3	76.8
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.).....dol.	4.16	¹ 3.90	5.26
Wool (lb.).....ct.	² 42.7	² 45.0	73.7
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.).....dol.	1.03	1.01	1.26
Cottonseed (ton).....dol.	50.90	--	63.00
Flaxseed (bu.).....dol.	3.21	3.27	3.86
Hay, baled (ton).....dol.	21.80	21.40	26.00
Oats (bu.).....dol.	.652	.664	.845
Potatoes (cwt.).....dol.	1.21	1.27	2.39
Rye (bu.).....dol.	.995	.991	1.45
Sorghum, grain (100 lb.).....dol.	1.67	1.68	2.52
Soybeans (bu.).....dol.	2.34	2.38	2.96
Sweet potatoes (cwt.).....dol.	5.70	6.04	6.00
Oranges, on tree (box).....dol.	2.27	1.78	2.67
Apples, for fresh use (bu.).....dol.	2.53	2.88	2.95
Beef cattle (100 lb.).....dol.	21.20	21.10	23.70
Calves (100 lb.).....dol.	25.30	25.40	26.30
Hogs (100 lb.).....dol.	16.00	15.40	21.70
Lambs (100 lb.).....dol.	16.50	16.60	24.40
Chickens, all (lb.).....ct.	15.8	14.5	24.4
Eggs (dozen).....ct.	33.0	31.5	47.4

¹ Preliminary.

² Does not include incentive payment.

Lemon Forecast Up

The lemon forecast is 16.5 million boxes, 15 percent larger than last year's crop and 10 percent above average. By May 1 about 57 percent of the crop had been picked leaving 7 million boxes for the remainder of the season. A year ago only 38 percent of the crop had been picked by May 1.

Other Fruit And Nut Prospects

CHERRIES: Production of sweet cherries in California is forecast at 29,000 tons, 5 percent above last year, and 10 percent above average.

The May 1 condition of sour cherries was also above average and in Washington was higher than in 1961, although in Oregon it was slightly below a year ago.

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1961		1962		
	Apr.	Year	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment (civilian) ¹	60.7	61.3	61.2	61.5	61.9
Farm employment.....	6.9	7.0	5.1	5.8	6.8
Family.....	5.3	5.1	4.1	4.6	5.2
Hired.....	1.6	1.9	1.0	1.2	1.6
Index numbers (1957-59) = 100					
Industrial production ²	106	109	115	116	117
Total personal income payments ³	112	114	119	119	120
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	100	105	110	111	112
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	108	110	113	114	115
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	100	100	100	101	101
Farm commodities.....	97	96	98	98	97
Food, processed.....	101	101	102	101	100
Consumer price index ⁴	104	104	105	105	---
Food.....	103	103	103	103	---
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)					
Prices received by farmers.....	239	240	243	244	242
Crops.....	226	226	227	233	236
Food grains.....	202	209	219	223	224
Feed grains and hay.....	145	151	152	153	155
Cotton.....	249	259	246	248	268
Tobacco.....	516	524	543	543	543
Oil bearing crops.....	286	257	253	252	255
Fruit.....	250	245	217	229	221
Commercial vegetables.....	228	221	285	317	306
Livestock and products.....	251	251	257	254	246
Meat animals.....	305	299	305	307	303
Dairy products.....	247	259	264	254	241
Poultry and eggs.....	145	146	154	147	139
Prices paid by farmers.....					
All commodities.....	277	276	279	279	280
Used in living.....	291	291	294	294	294
Used in production.....	267	266	268	269	270
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index).....	302	301	305	305	306
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted.....	647	641	652	652	666
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index).....	79	80	80	80	79

¹Bureau of the Census, ²Federal Reserve Board, ³Department of Commerce, ⁴Bureau of Labor Statistics--any figures not available at press time omitted, ⁵1957 = 100.

ALMONDS: A near-average crop of California almonds is in prospect for 1962 with production forecast at 45,000 tons, only two-thirds as large as in 1961.

PLUMS AND PRUNES: The 1962 plum crop in California is forecast at 74,000 tons, down 15 percent from last year and 8 percent below average.

APRICOTS: The 1962 crop of apricots in California is forecast at 150,000 tons, 17 percent smaller than last year and 18 percent below average.

Potato Prospects Lower Than Last Year

The May 1 forecast of the 1962 early spring potato crop is 3,274,000 hundredweight, 30 percent below 1961, and 6 percent below 1960.

Based on May 1 condition, the late spring potato crop is placed at 21,048,000 hundredweight, about 7.0 million below the 28 million crop of 1961 and 5.4 million below the 1960 crop.

Growers in the early summer area have 89,700 acres for harvest, or 9 percent below 1961 and 8 percent below 1960.

Tobacco, Revised (1960 and 1961 Crops)

Estimated production of all types of tobacco grown in 1961 has been revised to 2,058 million pounds--up about 35 million pounds from the estimate released last December.

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Mar. 1961	Jan.-Mar. 1962
Dairy Production			
Milk.....	Bil. lb.	¹ 41.4	¹ 42.2
Evaporated whole milk.....	Mil. lb.	453.8	383.6
Dry nonfat milk solids (for human food).....	Mil. lb.	477.4	562.4
Butter, creamery.....	Mil. lb.	371.4	428.7
Cheese, American.....	Mil. lb.	254.2	241.7
Ice Cream.....	Mil. gal.	147.9	149.4
Poultry Production			
Eggs.....	Billions	¹ 21.3	¹ 21.6
Federally inspected slaughter: ²			
Chickens.....	Mil. lb.	960.1	1,000.7
Turkeys.....	Mil. lb.	75.4	60.3
Poultry canned and used in other processed foods.....	Mil. lb.	109.8	111.6
Liquid egg.....	Mil. lb.	145.2	131.1
Dried egg (egg solids).....	Mil. lb.	12.4	9.1
Frozen egg.....	Mil. lb.	84.6	83.5
Meat Production (dressed weight) ³			
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	3,563	3,668
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	236	227
Pork.....	Mil. lb.	2,750	2,891
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	211	211
Total red meat.....	Mil. lb.	6,760	6,997

¹January-April.

²Ready-to-cook.

³Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

Value of 1961 production is estimated at about \$1,311 million and the average price per pound at 63.7 cents, both all-time highs. Growers received \$1,184 million for 1960 crop marketings, an average of 60.9 cents per pound.

At 1,258 million pounds, flue-cured production in 1961 was the highest since 1956 but exceeded that produced in 1960 by only 7 million pounds.

Burley production in 1961 totaled 580 million pounds. This compares with 485 million pounds raised in 1960 and is the largest since the all-time record crop of 668 million in 1954.

The Southern Maryland crop is estimated at 36.0 million pounds for 1961. Poundage at this level is nearly 4 percent above the previous year and is the highest since 1957.

Production of fire-cured last season is placed at 53.1 million pounds, or about 17 percent above the 45.4 million realized in 1960.

Cured leaf from the 1961 darkair-cured crops, types 35-37, weighed nearly 22.8 million pounds. This volume compares with 20.0 million pounds produced the previous year and is the largest since 1956.

Cigar filler production last year is estimated at 61.1 million pounds--the heaviest since 1951. In 1960, production amounted to 59.3 million pounds.

At 27.8 million pounds, the indicated production of cigar binder tobacco in 1961 is slightly higher than the 27.7 million produced a year earlier, but is among the smallest crops produced since records for these types began in 1919.

Growers harvested an estimated 19.0 million pounds from cigar wrapper types last year. This production ranks second, behind 1960 when 21.3 million pounds were produced.

Maple Sirup Estimate Down

Production of maple sirup in 1962 is estimated at 1,372,000 gallons, 8 percent less than was produced in 1961 and 7 percent less than the 1951-60 average of 1,473,000 gallons.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-Food Products

Year and month	Retail Cost ¹	Farm value ²	Farm-retail spread	Farmer's share
1961 average.....	\$1,060	\$404	\$656	38%
1961 March.....	1,068	415	653	39%
1962 February.....	1,065	414	651	39%
1962 March.....	1,064	412	652	39%

¹Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per family in 1952 by urban wage-earner and clerical-worker families calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

1961 Cotton Production At 14,318,000 Bales

A 1961 cotton crop of 14,318,000 bales was indicated by ginnings for the season, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was only 46,000 bales larger than the 1960 crop of 14,272,000 bales, but was 765,000 bales or 6 percent, above the average of 13,553,000 bales. Production of cottonseed is estimated at 5,977,000 tons, compared with 5,886,000 tons in 1960.

Cash Receipts From Farm Marketings by States, March 1962¹

State	Livestock and Products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.	1,000 dol.
Maine.....	10,449	8,385	18,834
New Hampshire.....	3,946	769	4,715
Vermont.....	10,151	1,482	11,633
Massachusetts.....	8,496	4,405	12,901
Rhode Island.....	1,333	577	1,910
Connecticut.....	8,246	4,535	12,781
New York.....	53,398	13,815	67,213
New Jersey.....	13,006	4,801	17,807
Pennsylvania.....	50,211	18,279	68,490
Ohio.....	53,914	22,465	76,379
Indiana.....	57,922	19,558	77,480
Illinois.....	100,915	73,306	174,221
Michigan.....	34,214	17,155	51,369
Wisconsin.....	93,087	8,363	101,450
Minnesota.....	90,312	21,898	112,210
Iowa.....	147,915	37,308	185,223
Missouri.....	55,041	10,583	65,624
North Dakota.....	14,687	10,179	24,866
South Dakota.....	35,106	5,589	40,695
Nebraska.....	54,857	23,312	78,169
Kansas.....	66,631	15,962	82,593
Delaware.....	6,083	1,271	7,354
Maryland.....	16,135	3,006	19,141
Virginia.....	17,882	6,398	24,280
West Virginia.....	4,535	1,315	5,850
North Carolina.....	25,756	8,240	33,996
South Carolina.....	8,810	3,610	12,420
Georgia.....	36,101	7,755	43,856
Florida.....	18,864	72,282	91,146
Kentucky.....	23,150	2,981	26,131
Tennessee.....	21,387	3,724	25,111
Alabama.....	25,351	3,585	28,936
Mississippi.....	21,165	7,072	28,237
Arkansas.....	20,894	5,931	26,825
Louisiana.....	15,540	3,896	19,436
Oklahoma.....	32,837	4,917	37,754
Texas.....	96,108	26,075	122,183
Montana.....	12,218	6,151	18,369
Idaho.....	16,380	9,673	26,053
Wyoming.....	5,543	762	6,305
Colorado.....	34,720	11,643	46,363
New Mexico.....	8,431	6,539	14,970
Arizona.....	18,513	14,740	33,253
Utah.....	9,561	1,243	10,804
Nevada.....	3,530	521	4,051
Washington.....	16,616	12,884	29,500
Oregon.....	14,154	7,222	21,376
California.....	106,968	86,649	193,617
United States.....	1,601,069	642,811	2,243,880
United States, Jan.-Mar.....	4,691,088	2,887,020	7,578,108
Same period, year ago.....	4,743,244	2,842,956	7,586,200

¹All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts From Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketings, United States¹

	March 1962	April 1962
CASH RECEIPTS	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Total marketings and CCC loans ²	2,244	2,100
Livestock and products.....	1,601	1,600
Meat animals.....	904	
Dairy products.....	431	
Poultry and eggs.....	242	
Other.....	24	
Crops.....	643	500
Food grains.....	47	
Feed crops.....	187	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	28	
Oil-bearing crops.....	61	
Tobacco.....	9	
Vegetables.....	148	
Fruits and tree nuts.....	73	
Other.....	90	
Government payments.....	221	
Grand total.....	2,465	
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS	1947-49 = 100	
All commodities.....	102	99
Livestock and products.....	134	135
Crops.....	58	50

¹For comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. ²Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Vegetable and Melon Production Down

Spring vegetable and melon production is expected to be 9 percent smaller than last year and 8 percent less than average. Important declines are indicated for cucumbers, lettuce, tomatoes, and watermelons, while smaller decreases are in prospect for asparagus, snap beans, cauliflower, onions, and green peppers. Major vegetable crops showing increases were cantaloups, celery, and sweet corn. Current acreage estimates for early summer vegetables and melons are 2 percent less than last year with most of the decline indicated in watermelon acreage.

Milk And Egg Production Above Last Year

Milk production in the United States during April was 1 percent larger than a year earlier and 4 percent above the 1951-60 average for the month. For the first four months of the year, milk production totaled 2 percent more than in 1961. April egg production was 2 percent above a year earlier as higher output in Western, South Central, South Atlantic, and East North Central regions more than offset lower totals for the North Atlantic and West North Central States. The average number of laying hens on farms during April was 2 percent greater than the previous year, while the rate of egg production per layer was unchanged.

